

Tangail Gold Cup final abandoned

Sports Reporter
The Tangail DC Gold Cup football tournament final match between reigning Dhaka NBL Senior Division champion Abahani Krira Chakra and Federation Cup champions Brothers Union had to be abandoned due to crowd trouble yesterday at the Tangail Stadium.
Both teams failed to break the deadlock after a barren 80 minutes of the scheduled play. The tie-breakers taken to decide the issue saw Abahani connecting their first three penalty kicks while Brothers converted two out of their first three kicks. Abahani's Ranjit took his team's fourth kick which went wide of the target.
Referee Subhash Ray ordered the kick to be retaken since he had not blown the whistle for Ranjit to take his shot. One section of the crowd reacted angrily to this and attacked the referee.
The organisers were forced to abandon the match when they found it impossible to resume the proceedings.
UNB adds: The Deputy Commissioner of Tangail announced the suspension of the match and said the final will be played again at a time convenient to the two teams.
LORD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka and State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfar Rahman Khan were present to witness the match.
Local soccer fans who came to watch the final between the two football giants of the country were disappointed by the lacklustre display of both Abahani KC and Brothers Union. Both teams failed to create any clear scoring chances all through the game.
Twenty teams — 15 from Dhaka Senior Division, three from the Second Division, the Bangladesh Krira Shikkhya Protisthan (BKSP) and two local teams — participated in the tournament.

Sea Customs win

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Sea Customs outplayed Naowjan Sporting Club by 4-1 goals in the Chittagong First Division football league today, reports UNB.
Sea Customs led the first half by two goals to nil. Jamrul netted the first goal for the winners in the 25th minute while M Babu doubled the margin in the 34th minute.
Islam of Dhaka Abahani KC netted two more goals for the winners in the 14th and 27th minutes of the second half. Naowjan got their consolation goal in the 34th minute.
Land Customs will play against Muktiyodha Sangshad tomorrow (Saturday).
Referee: Alauddin.

Baltics likely in '94 W Cup

GENEVA, Nov 15 The three Baltic states, granted independence from Moscow just two months ago, are expected to be included in next month's draw for the qualifying stages of the 1994 soccer World Cup, a FIFA spokesman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia can only be included in the December 8 draw in New York if they are granted provisional membership at a FIFA Executive Committee meeting the day before.
Spokesman Guido Tognoni said that was likely. "FIFA is investigating the ability of the three to play at international level and it is looking positive," he said.
The Baltic states, which had their Olympic status formally restored earlier this week, were all members of world soccer's governing body FIFA before their annexation by the Soviet Union in 1940. Tognoni said their membership had never been formally withdrawn.

Rajshahi ITF meet ends today Casey on course for a double

RAJSHAHI, Nov 15: Owen Casey of Ireland and Joost Wijnhood of the Netherlands clinched the doubles title in the second leg of the ITF Bangladesh-Pakistan satellite tennis circuit when they beat Italians Laurence Tieleman and Sylvano Simone 6-4, 6-4 in the final at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex here today, report agencies.
The Irish-Dutch pair took only an hour and five minutes to lift the title. They got one service break in each set in the match.
The winners earned 393.75 US dollars as prize-money and 15 ATP ranking points to share.
In the singles, Owen Casey, the second seed, and the Dutch man Joost Wijnhood moved into the final of the single.
Casey took 68 minutes to outplay Mario Carnevale of Italy 6-3, 6-2 in the first semifinal today.
In the second semifinal Pakistan's number one Rashid Malik got himself eliminated from the meet when he lost to fifth seed Joost Wijnhood 3-6, 4-6.
The singles final will be held tomorrow Saturday morning.
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to be the chief guest at the singles final and will distribute the prizes among the winners.
Runner-up of the Dhaka leg behind Laurence Tieleman, Casey, who has played 20 professional tournaments in the last four years, becoming champion in two, hopes to win the final tomorrow.
He said, he was satisfied with the doubles' result today.
A 22-year-old student of Clemson University of South Carolina in the United States, Casey started his tennis career at the age of six.
Divisional Commissioner NM Habibullah distributed prizes to the winners of the doubles event. Former Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi Farooq Alamgir Chowdhury and Chairman of the Rajshahi Tennis Complex Zafar Imam were also present.

Nat'l's begin today

Sports Reporter
Sherpur, Narayanganj and Pabna.
Competitions will be held on a knockout basis and the singles finals are scheduled for Nov 22.
Meanwhile, the Jessore District Sports Association, host of the meet, has almost completed the preparations for a smooth holding of the championships. The 32-member organising committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Bhuiyan Rafiuddin Ahmed has been working round-the-clock for the past few days to put the final touches to the preparations.
Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam, the chief patron of the meet, is scheduled to formally inaugurate the championships today.
GQ Ballpen Industries, makers of Econo ballpens, are sponsoring this year's championships which conclude next Friday.
State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeq Hossain Khoka is expected to attend the concluding ceremony and give away the trophies.

Navratilova sues her former lawyer

FORT WORTH, Texas, Nov 15: Tennis star Martina Navratilova is suing her former lawyer for not protecting her from a palimony lawsuit filed by former live-in lover Judy Nelson, a spokeswoman said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.
The lawsuit accuses Jerry Loftin of malpractice, saying he represented Navratilova in 1986 and helped prepare a "non-marital cohabitation agreement" between Nelson and Navratilova, the spokeswoman said.
The two women videotaped the agreement with the help of Loftin's assistant, Beann Sisemore.
In a statement, Navratilova said, "Not only was the agreement not what I was led to believe it was, but I thought Jerry Loftin and Beann Sisemore were my lawyers and protecting me."
Earlier this year Loftin represented Nelson in a palimony lawsuit in which Nelson demanded half of Navratilova's multi-million-dollar estate. In palimony suits, a person seeks a share of his or her former lover's wealth as if they had been married.
A trial on the palimony suit has been delayed pending a ruling on Navratilova's demand that Loftin be barred from representing Nelson in the case.
Both women traded accusations during an emotional four-day hearing on Navratilova's motion in September. Although at one point an agreement to settle the suit looked near, discussions broke down with Navratilova storming out of court.
A decision on that motion is due later this month.
Navratilova, a 34-year-old nine-time Wimbledon women's singles champion, and Nelson, a 45-year-old divorcee with two sons, began their relationship after they met at a Fort Worth tennis tournament in 1984, court documents said.
The relationship ended last winter, and Navratilova moved out of the house the women shared in Aspen, Colorado.



Winners of the women's skeet final in the World Shotgun Championships with their prizes in Perth, Australia Nov 13. From left: silver medalist Svetlana Domina of USSR, gold medalist Jong Ram Pak of North Korea and bronze medalist Erzsebet Vasvari of Hungary. — AFP photo

Olympic Day Run

The Olympic Day Run-91 under the auspices of Bangladesh Olympic Association was held in Dhaka amid great enthusiasm yesterday, reports BSS.
Besides, the State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) M A Mannan, about 800 people participated in the run which started at 6-30 am from the Army Stadium at Banani and terminated at the National Stadium No 1. The athletes and players selected for the coming SAF game, about 160 students from Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan and a good number of services people, among others took part in the race.
The Textile State Minister later distributed the certificates sent by the International Olympic Committee. The chairman of the National Sports Council, Major General Mahbubur Rahman and president of the Bangladesh Olympic Association and additional secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Youth and Sports Mr M A Rouf were present on the occasion.

MSC delegation meets Khaleda

Delegation of Mohammedan Sporting Club headed by its governing body chairman, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan yesterday met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Sugandha office, reports BSS.
Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas, the club president Abdul Momen, vice president Syed Mesbahuddin and general secretary Akmal Ahmed were present on the occasion.
The delegation included the players who left for the Maldives last night to play a return football match with the host country. The club will be eligible to play in the final phase of Asian Club Championship to be held in mid-December if it wins the match.
The players sought the blessings from the Prime Minister and presented a bouquet to her.
The Prime Minister wished them success and called upon them to show behaviour befitting the nation's pride and prestige besides their sporting skills during their stay in the Maldives.

US shooter dies in accident

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado, Nov 15: Memorial services were held on Wednesday at the US Olympic Training Centre for a member of the US Shooting Team who shot and killed himself accidentally on Sunday, reports Reuter.
Robert Plante, 29, went with two members of the Spanish national pistol team to a house in Parker, Colorado, to look at a pistol he was considering buying, police said.
He inspected the pistol and then brought out his own Colt 45 automatic pistol, pointed it at his head "in a joking manner" and pulled the trigger, a statement from the Douglas County Sheriff's Department said.
He was killed instantly, it said.
Squash stakes claim as an Olympic sport

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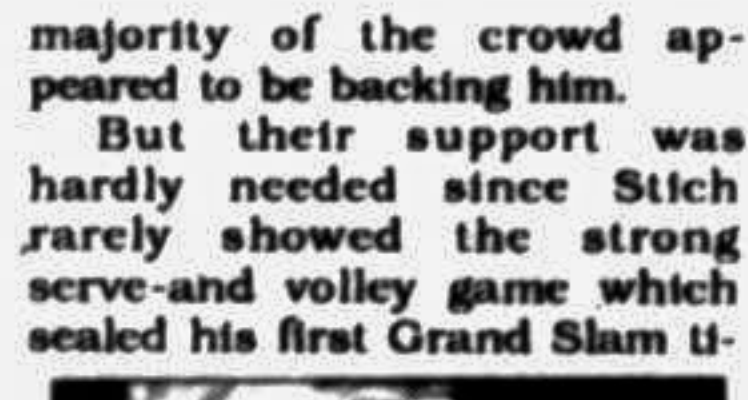
HELSINKI, Nov 15: Squash is changing its name and structure in a bid to become an Olympic sport by the year 2000, reports Reuter.
Prince Peter Tunku Imran, president of the International Squash Rackets Federation (ISRF), announced a list of changes at the world body's annual meeting on Friday.
He said that from November 1992 the game would be officially called Squash, rather than Squash rackets, and the governing body would be known as the World Squash Federation.
It will reform into five regional groups — Pan America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and Africa.
The game already seems to fulfil all the criteria laid down by the International Olympic Committee and to make its case watertight we are extending associate membership of the federation to all regional bodies," the president said.
Retired top players are to be encouraged to become international grade referees and a new three-judge system, experimented with at the Canadian Open in October, will be used at the 1992 women's World Championship in Vancouver.
The new system has a referee-marker controlling the match from the usual position in the back gallery, with two officials placed adjacent to the back wall, one at each corner.
On the technical side, the federation restricted all future increases in racket head size to 500 square centimetres with a maximum string length of 39 cms.



Runners in the Olympic Day Run organised by the Bangladesh Olympic Association in observance of the Olympic Day, Nov 15. Nearly 800 runners including over 400 sports people took part in the race which set off at 6:30 am yesterday from the Banani Army Stadium and concluded at the Dhaka Stadium. — Star photo

Becker avenges Wimbledon defeat

FRANKFURT, Nov 15: Boris Becker gained some consolation for his Wimbledon final defeat by Michael Stich when he beat him in straight sets on Thursday to stay in the hunt for the ATP tour World Championship tennis title, reports Reuter.
Becker came off best in the all-German battle of the big servers in a 7-6, 6-3 victory in their round-robin group match.
While Stich is now out of the competition, Becker, the world number three, still has a chance to reach Saturday's semifinals as he prepares to face American Pete Sampras today.
Sampras notched up his second group match win with a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 victory over compatriot Andre Agassi today and will be a tough opponent.
Becker served superbly and deserved to triumph in front of the excitable German crowd packed into the indoor Frankfurt Festhalle arena.
The three-times Wimbledon champion was brought up at Leime, less than an hour's drive from the arena, and the majority of the crowd appeared to be backing him.
But their support was hardly needed since Stich rarely showed the strong serve-and-volley game which sealed his first Grand Slam title.



BORIS BECKER

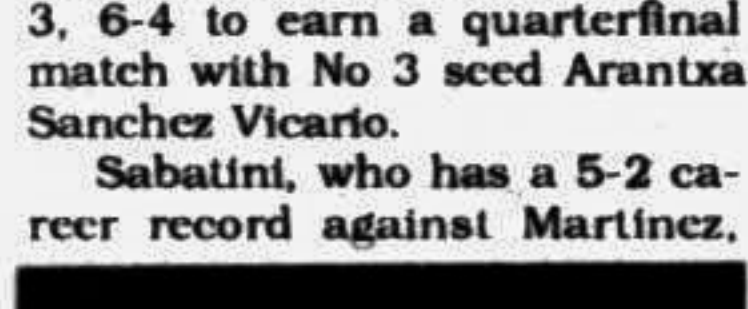
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match after 86 minutes with a further break of service in the ninth game to take the set 6-3.
Stich said the fact that the crowd were behind Becker had bothered him.
"When eight and a half thousand people are in the hall and eight thousand are cheering for Boris, I think it is very very unfair," he said.
Becker agreed that the crowd may have affected Stich's game.
"I think they made a difference to his game," Becker said. "My game was good from the first point on. But then it was more a question that his mind couldn't take the fact that they were all on my side."
But he said the victory did not make up for the Wimbledon defeat.
"For me the big match is the (Wimbledon) tournament coming up next July. If we meet in the final then that will be a big match for me."
In the weaker Group A, Ivan Lendl, as expected, qualified for the semifinals by keeping his 100 per cent record intact with a straight forward 6-2, 6-2 victory over fellow Czechoslovak Karel Novacek.

Sabatini too good for Martinez

PHILADELPHIA, Nov 15: Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini breezed into the semifinals of the 3,500,000 Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tennis tournament Thursday night with a 6-3, 6-0 victory over No. 6 seed Conchita Martinez, reports AP.
Sabatini, the world's third-ranked player, took advantage of Martinez's 27 unforced errors and played a steady game to reach the semifinals for the 11th time in 15 tournament years.
Sabatini will play the winner of Friday's match between fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati and No. 7 seed Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere.
Maleeva-Fragniere defeated Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-3 to move to the quarterfinals, while eighth-seeded Zina Garrison defeated Nicole Provis 6-4, 6-4 to play top-seed Monica Seles, the world's No. 1 player.
In another second-round match, Brenda Schultz, who upset sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez in the first round, overpowered Peanut Harper 6-3, 6-4 to earn a quarterfinal match with No. 3 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.
Sabatini, who has a 5-2 career record against Martinez, owned, squandering one match point, but took the set when Martinez hit a forehand passing shot wide.
Coming to the net often in the second set, Sabatini was too much for Martinez, who is ranked ninth in the world but is a better player on clay than the Supreme surface used indoors.
Martinez was able to save only one of four break points against her in the set and Sabatini never faced a break point, winning the 66-minute match when Martinez hit a volley into the net.
Garrison, the world's 12th-ranked player, started slowly against Provis, falling behind 2-0 after losing her serve in the second game.
That was the last point Provis won, however, as she was broken at love and Garrison served a love game to win the match.
"I'm not playing badly, considering how I was playing in the middle of the year," Garrison said, "the main thing is, I want to be out there. In the summer, I didn't want to be out there at all."



GABRIELA SABATINI

jumped out to a 4-0 lead with two service breaks in the first set before she faltered slightly. She sandwiched a service break of Martinez around two dropped service games of her own, squandering one match point, but took the set when Martinez hit a forehand passing shot wide.
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Seles, Graf top Virginia Slims tourney draw

NEW YORK, Nov 15: World number one Monica Seles was made the top seed and Steffi Graf second in the draw on Thursday for the three-million-dollar Virginia Slims championships starting on Monday, reports Reuter.
Seles opens the defence of her title against Julie Halard of France. If form holds, the 17-year-old Yugoslav's opponent in the semifinals would be third-seeded Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who opens against Katerian Maleeva of Bulgaria.
On the other side of the draw in the final tournament of the women's tennis season, Graf first faces Spain's Conchita Martinez in the semifinals, the 22-year-old German would play fourth-seeded Martina Navratilova, who opens against American compatriot Lori McNeil.
In other opening pairings, fifth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain faces American Zina Garrison for the right to play the Navratilova-McNeil winner and eighth seed Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia meets Manuela Maleeva-Fragnier of Switzerland to set the opponent for the Graf-Martinez victor.
Sixth seed Jennifer Capriati of the United States plays France's Nathalie Tauziat to meet the Sabatini-Maleeva winner and seventh seed Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States faces Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia to determine the opponent for the Seles-Halard winner.

Pakistan face relegation

HELSINKI, Nov 15: Once mighty Pakistan suffered a third humiliation in the World Team Squash Championship on Thursday — a 2-1 defeat by Sweden, reports Reuter.
The country which boasts the top two players in the game, Jansher and Jahangir Khan, now faces the indignity of relegation from the top division.
To remain in the premier category, Pakistan must win a play off against undefeated second division side Scotland.
The five times winner and 1989 finalist, already beaten by England and the lightweight Finns, went tantalisingly close to scraping home against the Swedes.
With the outcome in the balance at 1-1, inexperience third string Ehsanullah Khan went the full distance against Anders Wahlstedt before submitting 10-9 in the fifth game.
The young Pakistani had forced a decider despite losing the first two games 9-7, 9-2. He saved a matchpoint at 8-6 in the fifth then forced two setting points at 8-8.
An exhausted Wahlstedt saved a match point at 9-8 and the pair forced one more piece before the Swede clinched victory with a sliced backhand winner.
World number one Jansher defeated Frederik Johnson but the Swedes levelled when Jonas Gornerup beat Umar Zaman.
Jahangir dropped out of the tournament because of injury, leaving Pakistan with major selection problems.
Loss of first division status — only the two four-team top pools can contest the crown — would be a severe blow to Pakistan because they host the biennial championship in 1993.
But there is a provision in the rules in which a team can be moved a maximum two places if it has significantly gained or lost strength in relation to the previous championship.
Unbeaten holders Australia wrapped up their pool series by trouncing Canada 3-0.

Der Spiegel says it was only reporting rumours

ATLANTA, Nov 15: A German magazine contends it was simply passing on rumours when it reported that Atlanta officials bribed International Olympic Committee members into selecting their city for the 1996 Games, reports AP.
"Der Spiegel" cannot say that we as a newsmagazine are accusing anyone of doing anything," the magazine's attorney, Dietrich Krause, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution in an interview from Hamburg. "We just reported what others had said. Those accusations are not new."
"At least in the understanding of German newspapers, it's legitimate to report on rumours," Krause said.

Maleeva in semis

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Nov 15: Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, the only remaining seeded players, posted straight set victories on Thursday to advance to the semifinals of the \$150,000 dollar Jell-O tennis classic, reports Reuter.
Top seed Maleeva out-slugged American Susan Sloane-Lundy 6-3, 6-3 to move a step closer to her third title here. Maleeva won this event in 1988 and 1989.
Fourth seed Zrubakova also continued successful week with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over American Linda Harvey-Wild.